

An Imminent Event?

Of all the major issues that currently face our world and its future security the one most likely to happen next is a massive attack on Israel by all Israel's nearby neighbors backed by Iran. The clear indications of such an attack have been proclaimed and demonstrated by feverish activities on the part of Iran together with Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon. The attack, although made directly on Israel, will have devastating worldwide repercussions powerfully affecting every nation on earth. In many ways our world will be changed forever. If this proposed attack were to succeed and the State of Israel was annihilated, the whole plan of redemption as revealed in the Bible would be derailed. Jehovah's plan to rule the world from David's throne in Jerusalem would immediately be made defunct. How strange that so few people seem to be vitally aware of this impending drama and the apparent proximity of it.

Zechariah is a minor prophet with a major prophetic message, part of which is likely to be fulfilled in the very near future. When this happens Israel will emerge as an extremely prominent nation with great respect and will be recognized and honored by all the nations on earth. Zechariah graphically describes this amazing event. In the Message version of the Bible the prophet frequently refers to "On the Big Day" which is usually translated in other versions as "In that day." In fact it will be a bigger day than almost anyone has ever yet imagined. A truly amazing and astounding time when Israel will arise as though from the dead! (Romans 11:15).

Zechariah Chapter 12 (MessageVersion)

Home Again in Jerusalem

¹ *War Bulletin: GOD's Message concerning Israel, GOD's Decree—the very GOD who threw the skies into space, set earth on a firm foundation, and breathed his own life into men and women:* ² *"Watch for this: I'm about to turn Jerusalem into a cup of strong drink that will have the people who have set siege to Judah and Jerusalem staggering in a drunken stupor.* ³ *"On the Big Day, I'll turn Jerusalem into a huge stone blocking the way for everyone. All who try to lift it will rupture themselves. All the pagan nations will come together and try to get rid of it.*

⁴ *"On the Big Day"—this is GOD speaking—"I'll throw all the war horses into a crazed panic, and their riders along with them. But I'll keep my eye on Judah, watching out for her at the same time that I make the enemy horses go blind.*

⁵ *The families of Judah will then realize, 'Why, our leaders are strong and able through GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, their personal God.'*

⁶ *"On the Big Day, I'll turn the families of Judah into something like a burning match in a tinder-dry forest, like a fiercely flaming torch in a barn full of hay. They'll burn up everything and everyone in sight—people to the right, people to the left—while Jerusalem fills up with people moving in and making themselves at home—home again in Jerusalem.*

⁷ *"I, GOD, will begin by restoring the common households of Judah so that the glory of David's family and the leaders in Jerusalem won't overshadow the ordinary people in Judah.*

⁸ *On the Big Day, I'll look after everyone who lives in Jerusalem so that the lowliest, weakest*

person will be as glorious as David and the family of David itself will be godlike, like the Angel of GOD leading the people.

⁹ *"On the Big Day, I'll make a clean sweep of all the godless nations that fought against Jerusalem.*

¹⁰ *"Next I'll deal with the family of David and those who live in Jerusalem. I'll pour a spirit of grace and prayer over them. They'll then be able to recognize me as the One they so grievously wounded—that piercing spear-thrust! And they'll weep—oh, how they'll weep! Deep mourning as of a parent grieving the loss of the firstborn child.*

¹¹ *The lamentation in Jerusalem that day will be massive, as famous as the lamentation over Hadad-Rimmon on the fields of Megiddo:*

¹² *Everyone will weep and grieve, the land and everyone in it: The family of David off by itself and their women off by themselves; The family of Nathan off by itself and their women off by themselves;*

¹³ *The family of Levi off by itself and their women off by themselves; The family of Shimei off by itself and their women off by themselves;*

¹⁴ *And all the rest of the families off by themselves and their women off by themselves.*

Zech 12:1-14 (MSG)

Let's go through the whole chapter making brief comments,

Zechariah 12:1 (Message Version)

¹ *War Bulletin: GOD's Message concerning Israel, GOD's Decree—the very GOD who threw the skies into space, set earth on a firm foundation, and breathed his own life into men and women:*

² *"Watch for this: I'm about to turn Jerusalem into a cup of strong drink that will have the people who have set siege to Judah and Jerusalem staggering in a drunken stupor.*

Zechariah predicts that in the last days a devastating attack will be launched on Israel by all her surrounding neighbours. The brazen attack will actually be a declaration of war upon Jehovah, the God of the Bible (Psalm 83:2). In response God will give an intoxicating drink to Israel's enemies causing them to stagger and reel like drunken men acting irrationally and crazily. This will be a cup of judgment from the LORD who is the Holy One of Israel.

³ *"On the Big Day, I'll turn Jerusalem into a huge stone blocking the way for everyone. All who try to lift it will rupture themselves. All the pagan nations will come together and try to get rid of it.*

God will make Jerusalem like an immovable rock. Those who strive to change its status will only succeed in rupturing themselves. Their ranks will be torn apart. In their confusion they will begin to destroy each other.

⁴ *"On the Big Day"—this is GOD speaking—"I'll throw all the war horses into a crazed panic, and their riders along with them. But I'll keep my eye on Judah, watching out for her at the same time that I make the enemy horses go blind.*

Israel's enemies and their weapons will lose all sense of direction. They will cease to function intelligently.

⁵ *The families of Judah will then realize, 'Why, our leaders are strong and able through GOD-of-the-Angel-Armies, their personal God.'*

The Israeli government and leaders and the general population of Israel will transfer their confidence and trust from the IDF to Yaweh Sabaoth, the Lord of heaven's armies. This will happen because the attack will appear to be too powerful for the defense force to handle and the whole nation will turn directly to the living God.

⁶ *"On the Big Day, I'll turn the families of Judah into something like a burning match in a tinder-dry forest, like a fiercely flaming torch in a barn full of hay. They'll burn up everything and everyone in sight—people to the right, people to the left—while Jerusalem fills up with people moving in and making themselves at home—home again in Jerusalem.*

Infused by the power of God the defense forces will become like a blazing fire destroying everything before it (Psalm 83:14)

⁷ *"I, GOD, will begin by restoring the common households of Judah so that the glory of David's family and the leaders in Jerusalem won't overshadow the ordinary people in Judah.*

⁸ *On the Big Day, I'll look after everyone who lives in Jerusalem so that the lowliest, weakest person will be as glorious as David and the family of David itself will be godlike, like the Angel of GOD leading the people.*

Jehovah Himself will defend Jerusalem. Even the most feeble members of the nation will become like King David, the warrior king of Israel. (Hebrew for feeble, kashal, likely to stumble and fall due to weakness in the legs. Typical of tiny tots or elderly people).

⁹ *"On the Big Day, I'll make a clean sweep of all the godless nations that fought against Jerusalem.*

¹⁰ *"Next I'll deal with the family of David and those who live in Jerusalem. I'll pour a spirit of grace and prayer over them. They'll then be able to recognize me as the One they so grievously wounded—that piercing spear-thrust! And they'll weep—oh, how they'll weep! Deep mourning as of a parent grieving the loss of the firstborn child.*

Zechariah 12:9 At that time I will destroy¹ every nation that tries to attack Jerusalem.

Zechariah 12:10 "I will fill the descendants of David² and the other people of Jerusalem³ with the spirit⁴ of mercy⁵ and the spirit of prayer⁶. They will look⁷ at the one whom they stabbed to death, and they will mourn⁸ for him like those who mourn for an only child. They will mourn bitterly⁹, like those who have lost their first-born son¹⁰.

The earlier verses of this profound chapter (vs 1-8) describe an End Time attack on Israel by all her surrounding neighbors. I believe these enemies to be the same ones that Asaph describes in

Psalms 83:4-8

4 "Come," they say, "let us wipe out Israel as a nation. We will destroy the very memory of its existence."

5 This was their unanimous decision. They signed a treaty as allies against you —

6 these Edomites and Ishmaelites, Moabites and Hagrites,

7 Gebalites, Ammonites, and Amalekites, and people from Philistia and Tyre.

8 Assyria has joined them, too, and is allied with the descendants of Lot. NLT

Each of these ancient and historic foes of Israel have their modern counterparts today surrounding the borders of modern Israel. They have all formed an alliance the chief aim of which is the conquest of Israel and the annihilation of the Jewish state which they intend to replace with an Islamic shariah based government.

I further believe that this attack and its amazing consequence is about to happen very soon.

This war is now inevitable. It also appears to be very imminent. It was predicted in Islamic prophecy and many Muslims believe absolutely that it will happen soon. They are currently and fanatically preparing for it. The plans are in place. Iran is boldly and arrogantly proclaiming its intentions to the whole world. They and their minions are absolutely determined to launch a massive attack on Israel. They are absolutely determined to let nothing deter them. However when their efforts fail there will be tremendous "loss of face" and shock among them.

The question is what will be the response of God, who calls Himself "The Holy One of Israel" and also "The Lord (Commander) of Heaven's Armies"? It seems obvious that verses 9-11 provide a succinct prophetic account of what His response will be. **ONE THING IS ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN. GOD WILL NEVER ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN.** All His prophetic predictions and plans would become null and void if Israel was destroyed. The very many wonderful promises that God has made to Israel will not be worth the paper on which they are written. Israel will be defended, delivered and exalted. Let's analyze these verses together.

1. V. 9. God declares that His specific intention is to destroy* Israel's enemies (Hebrew shamad*, to desolate, overthrow, bring to nought, pluck down, cause to perish) How much clearer could God's intention be stated?
2. V.10 House of David. All the descendants of David whose lineage descends from Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (Romans 11:25-27 All Israel will be saved).
3. V. 10. The inhabitants of Jerusalem which today comprises of Jews, Christians and Muslims.
4. V. 10 . The Spirit (Hebrew, ruach) The definite participle THE SPIRIT refers to the Holy Spirit who is God.

5. V.10. Grace or mercy (Hebrew: chen H2603 Graciousness, kindness and unmerited favor). God will not perform these acts because Israel is necessarily worthy of them but because of His unfailing grace towards them. (Isaiah 31:35-37)
6. V.10. They shall look (Hebrew: nabat H5027 to look intently upon, to behold, to carefully consider with deep respect, to regard with pleasure and favor).
7. V.10. Supplications (Hebrew: tachanun – tachanunah H8469, with much {many} entreaties).
8. V.11. Mourning (Hebrew: saphad H5594, to tear out one’s hair, to beat the chest, to lament in grief).
9. V.11. Bitterness (Hebrew: marar H4843, to grieve bitterly).
10. V.11. Firstborn son (Hebrew: b kor H1060, A firstborn, eldest son).

(All translations from Strong’s Analytical Concordance)

It is very sad to see what most commentators derive from these verses. Very few, if any seem to draw the very obvious conclusion. My brief and simple interpretation is as follows.

1. Israel’s nearest neighbors, with both direct and tacit support, will launch a powerful attack on Israel with the intention to totally annihilate the Jewish State.
2. It would appear in the natural that they have the power and ability to accomplish this aim.
3. Israel will be delivered only by the direct intervention of Jehovah and the “Angel of the Lord” who goes before the Israeli defense force.
4. God has determined to completely destroy these enemies and smash their evil intentions.
5. After this predicted victory Jehovah will pour out His Spirit (Ruach Ha Kodesh) on the descendants of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
6. This outpouring will be accomplished with by God’s grace, causing deep prayers to pour forth from the people of Israel.
7. They will recognize and identify the deliverer as their long awaited Messiah, the One who was previously pierced.
8. The whole nation will mourn for Him in a manner not seen since the death of King Josiah. (2 Chronicles 35:20-27).
9. They will mourn as one would for a first born son who has died.

10. Zechariah 13:1 "On that day a fountain will be opened for the dynasty of David and for the people of Jerusalem, a fountain to cleanse them from all their sins and defilement.

11. The whole nation of Israel will have a renewed perception of their Messiah.

12. They will be sealed with God's protection and will powerfully proclaim the Messiah to a troubled and distressed world. (Revelation 7:1-8).

I would be genuinely interested to hear any (and every) alternative interpretation to these verses.

Please do write me at (israelspropheticfuture.org)

I will be sincerely grateful to receive your comments whether pro or con. Gerald Rowlands